

May 21, 2019

To the Council Members, City Manager, and Citizens of Desert Hot Springs:

I tender my resignation as the Chief of Police of Desert Hot Springs effective May 24, 2019 at 6:00 pm. This decision does not come without a heavy heart and many hours in thought, prayer, and Spiritual counsel. Although I consider myself a fighter, and this is not the way I envisioned to end my 37-year law enforcement career, I believe my resignation is in the best interest of the City and my family.

My decision is in light of the recent revelation of a series of consensual private text messages I participated in one evening with an adult female 2 years ago. Although I consider this a personal matter and wish it could have been handled privately, I recognize this situation has caused great harm and embarrassment to my family, the department, and the community of Desert Hot Springs. My priority at this time is to heal my relationship with my wife Danette and my children.

While I am deeply remorseful for the actions I admitted above, I am proud of my accomplishments as the Chief of Police. I implemented community outreach programs and reduced the crime rate 30% during my tenure. In working with the City Manager and City Council I created a succession plan within the Department with the addition of the Deputy Chief Position and another Commander position that will allow the Department to continue to be successful.

I will continue to cooperate with the City related to the investigation of the text messages reported in social and local media. The information supplied to these outlets is based on selective bits of communication with missing facts. It has been difficult for me not to make comments during this time as I would like the city and community to be informed of the entire story and for full truth to be known. However, in order not to compromise the integrity of the process it is imperative that I not comment further on the allegations at this time. I am confident that the investigation will reveal the full breadth of this situation.

I apologize to the entire City for my conduct, but most notable, the City Manager, Mayor, City Council and the men and women of the Police Department whom I have disappointed. I appreciate all the support and prayers I have received. The City of Desert Hot Springs is an extraordinary City and will always have a special place in my heart. I pray I am remembered for the good things I have done for the City and this incident does not overshadow our successes.

Lastly, I want it to be known I am resigning on my own accord and without request or pressure from the City Council, or City Manager.

D. R. Mondary
Dale Mondary